ASTER ERICOIDES VAR. PLATYPHYLLUS IN MARYLAND.—*Aster ericoides* L. var. *platyphyllus* Torr. & Gray is an extremely well marked variety, distinguished from the typical form by its densely spreading-pilose stem and comparatively broad, lanceolate stem leaves, these more or less densely pilose or hirsute beneath. In current floras it is assigned a range from Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois southward. The area covered by material in the U. S. National Herbarium extends from Ohio to Missouri, south to Alabama, West Virginia, and south-central North Carolina (Fayetteville). The occurrence of this very distinct variety in Maryland is therefore worthy of record. On 30 Oct. 1927 I found two clumps along the Conduit Road in Montgomery County, Maryland, about 5 miles west of the District of Columbia boundary. The plants were growing in sand which had been used to cover the new conduit recently constructed between Washington and Great Falls. Although this habitat is not a strictly natural one, it is occupied by many native species which have invaded it from surrounding fields, as well as by the usual naturalized weeds. Moreover, the dirt used in making the fill over the conduit was obtained in the immediate vicinity, so that there is no possibility of introduction from a distance in that way. There seems no reason, therefore, to suppose that the aster reached this spot by any but perfectly natural means. One of the periodic floods of the Potomac River may have brought down seeds from the Alleghany Mountains, where it occurs. Specimens have been deposited in the U. S. National Herbarium, the Gray Herbarium, and the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden.—S. F. BLAKE, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.

THE VARIETIES OF GALIUM BOREALE. *Galium boreale* L. is common in northwestern America, and locally across the continent to the Gaspé Peninsula, New England, New Jersey and Delaware, and it is widely dispersed across Eurasia. It is so highly variable in breadth and degree of ciliation of leaves and in its stature and degree of branching as to baffle most attempts at organization of its vegetative variations. In its fruits, likewise, it is amazingly variable, these ranging all the way from strictly glabrous to densely villous-hirsute. In other groups of *Galium* such differences of the fruits accompany other characters and are found to be good specific differences; in *G. boreale*,